



City of Cincinnati

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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I.T. Village Youth Lab Holds Graduation Ceremony

City, Dell, Inc., Uptown Consortium partnership graduates inaugural class

The City of Cincinnati, Dell, Inc. and Uptown Consortium set out to connect youth to technology and that's exactly what it accomplished. Yesterday as a part of the City of Cincinnati's commitment to economic and workforce development, eighteen students between the ages of 12 and 18 participated in a graduation ceremony from the I.T. Youth Lab designed to teach them important computer skills. The two I.T. Village Youth Labs (Downtown and Uptown) brought together youth, technology, and expert IT business practitioners to connect general technology knowledge into advanced practice.

The six-week information technology program sought to develop students for the work environment the City is working to create. "As we continue to develop our neighborhoods and buildings, we must also develop our people, especially our youth," said City Manager Milton Dohoney, Jr. "A key path to growing the City of Cincinnati revolves around attracting the right kinds of business and industries and preparing tomorrow's workforce to take those newly created jobs with programs such as the I.T. Youth Village."

Mayor Mark Mallory presented a certificate of completion to each student. "I commend the graduates for taking advantage of this innovative opportunity," Mayor Mallory said. "Information Technology is a growing employment area in Cincinnati. The IT Village will connect our young people to those future jobs."

As a partner in the program, Dell, Inc. provided each graduate a computer, a one-year Internet subscription to America Online (AOL), and other technology accessories at the graduation ceremony.

One of the primary goals of the program was to provide young people access to information technology so that they could learn marketable skills, find required information, and participate in the global online community safely. The course, which was taught by staff volunteering their time from the city/county Regional Computer Center, included:

- Using geographical information systems to find required information;
- Understanding virtual environments and the safe uses of online worlds to support learning and collaboration;
- Learning financial management principles through interactive games;
- Building and repairing a computer; and
- Managing software programs to share data like Excel and Word.

Kimaya Hudgins, an 11th grader from Princeton High School provided student reflections at the graduation ceremony saying, "The IT Village definitely taught all of us information technology skills that the older students can now use in college and that the younger students can use during the rest of their high school days." Hudgins will complete classes next month a year early and begin classes at the University of Cincinnati in the Fall Semester.

The program was also made possible with the support of Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati, and the Avondale Community Pride Center.